

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Previously Presented) A battery-operated lighting device for use with any one of a plurality of rechargeable battery packs, each battery pack having a pair of terminals and producing a respective, different battery voltage, said battery-operated lighting device comprising:

- a casing having first and second casing parts,
- a lighting unit including a light bulb located at said first casing part, said light bulb having a fixed operating voltage,
- a battery chamber located at said second casing part for receiving at least part of and locating any of the battery packs,
- a pair of electrical contacts located in said battery chamber for making electrical connection with respective terminals of whichever of the battery packs is located in said battery chamber, and
- an electronic voltage regulating circuit within said casing and having an input and an output electrically connected to said electrical contacts and said light bulb, respectively, said voltage regulating circuit regulating whatever battery voltage is supplied by whichever of the battery packs is in said battery chamber and connected to said input of said voltage regulating circuit to substantially the fixed operating voltage of said light bulb at said output of said voltage regulating circuit, for operating said light bulb.

2. (Previously Presented) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamber has an opening through which a part of any of the battery packs is insertable into said battery chamber, said opening having a periphery with a shape and size substantially the same as the part of any of the battery packs for locating any of the battery packs in said battery chamber.

3. (Previously Presented) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said casing has an outer surface forming said battery chamber and lying substantially flush with any of the battery packs when located in said battery chamber.

4. (Previously Presented) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said casing has a lower end forming part of said battery chamber, said battery chamber having a bottom opening through which a part of any of the battery packs is insertable into said battery chamber, a battery pack in and protruding from said battery chamber acting as a weighted base for said battery-operated lighting device.

5. (Previously Presented) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said casing has an upper end that supports said lighting unit and a middle section including a handgrip.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ battery-operated lighting device ~~as claimed in claim 8~~ for use with any one of a plurality of rechargeable battery packs, each battery pack having a pair of terminals and producing a respective, different battery voltage, said battery-operated lighting device comprising:

a casing having first and second casing parts,

a lighting unit including a light bulb located at said first casing part, said light bulb having a fixed operating voltage,

a battery chamber located at said second casing part for receiving at least part of and locating any of the battery packs, wherein the operating voltages of the battery packs are substantially 9.6V, 12.0V, 13.2V, 14.4V, 15.6V, 16.8V, and 18.0V,

a pair of electrical contacts located in said battery chamber for making electrical connection with respective terminals of whichever of the battery packs is located in said battery chamber, and

an electronic voltage regulating circuit within said casing and having an input and an output electrically connected to said electrical contacts and said light bulb, respectively, said voltage regulating circuit regulating whatever battery voltage is supplied by whichever of the battery packs is in said battery chamber and connected to said input of said voltage regulating circuit to substantially the fixed operating voltage of said light bulb at said output of said voltage regulating circuit, for operating said light bulb, wherein said voltage regulating circuit includes

an integrated circuit chip producing a substantially constant output voltage that is the fixed operating voltage of said light bulb, irrespective of an input voltage supplied by whichever of the battery packs is in said battery chamber,

a feedback loop connected from said output to said integrated circuit chip for indicating output voltage of said voltage regulating circuit.

10. (Previously Presented) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixed operating voltage of said light bulb is substantially 9.3V DC.

11. (New) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said casing has a lower end forming part of said battery chamber, said battery chamber having a bottom opening through which a part of any of the battery packs is insertable into said battery chamber, a battery pack in and protruding from said battery chamber acting as a weighted base for said battery-operated lighting device.

12. (New) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said casing has an upper end that supports said lighting unit and a middle section including a handgrip.

13. (New) The battery-operated lighting device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fixed operating voltage of said light bulb is substantially 9.3V DC.